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7  
8 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

9 FOR THE TERRITORY OF GUAM

10 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

11 Plaintiff,

12 vs.

13 RICKY JAMES JR. SALAS SANTOS,

14 Defendant.  
15

CRIMINAL CASE NO. 20-00021

**MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION OF  
ORDER OF RELEASE**

16  
17 COMES NOW the United States of America, respectfully requesting reconsideration of  
18 the Magistrate Court's October 29, 2020 determination to release Defendant RICKY JAMES JR.  
19 SALAS SANTOS.

20 **FACTS**

21 On September 9, 2020, an Indictment was returned charging Defendant RICKY JAMES  
22 JR. SALAS SANTOS ("SANTOS") with one count of Attempted Possession with Intent to  
23 Distribute Methamphetamine Hydrochloride in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) and  
24 (b)(1)(A)(viii), and one count of Possession with Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine, in  
25 violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) and (b)(1)(A)(viii).  
26

1 This case involves the interception of a U.S. mail package containing 470 grams of  
2 methamphetamine which was mailed to a Yigo residence. The package was received and opened  
3 by Defendant SANTOS. Law Enforcement entered Defendant SANTOS' residence and  
4 discovered an addition 1,191 grams of methamphetamine concealed in a bag of dry dog food in  
5 Defendant SANTOS' bedroom.

### 6 ARGUMENT

7 On October 29, 2020, a detention hearing was held pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3142(f).  
8 Defendant SANTOS was released.  
9

10 The United States respectfully requests that the District Court review the Magistrate's  
11 determination that Defendant SANTOS has overcome the presumption in favor of detention, or  
12 shown by clear and convincing evidence that there are adequate conditions or a combination of  
13 conditions that will reasonably assure the safety of any other person and the community.

14 18 United States Code Section 3145(a) states:

15 (a) **Review of a release order.** – If a person is ordered released by a magistrate judge,  
16 or by a person other than a judge of a court having original jurisdiction over the  
offense and other than a Federal appellate court –

17 (1) The attorney for the Government may file, with the court having original  
18 jurisdiction, over the offense, a motion for revocation of the order or amendment  
of the conditions of release; and

19 (2) the person may file, with the court having original jurisdiction over the offense, a  
20 motion for amendment of the conditions of release.

21 The motion shall be determined promptly.

22 The District Court should revoke the Magistrate's determination of release in a case  
23 where it is presumed that there are no conditions or combination of conditions which will  
24 reasonably assure the safety of any other person and the community. There is a serious risk that  
25 Defendant SANTOS will obstruct or attempt to obstruct justice or threaten, injure, or intimidate  
26

1 prospective witnesses or jurors. Defendant has not rebutted the presumption in favor of  
2 detention. Defendant SANTOS poses a danger to any other persons and the community. The  
3 instant case involves an offense for which the maximum term of imprisonment is ten years or  
4 more. Defendant's presence cannot be reasonably assured, nor can the safety of any other person  
5 or the community be ensured.

6 Release and detention of defendants pending trial is addressed in 18 U.S.C. § 3142.  
7 "The rules concerning admissibility of evidence in criminal trials do not apply to the presentation  
8 and consideration of information at the hearing. The facts the judicial officer uses to support a  
9 finding pursuant to subsection (e) that no condition or combination of conditions will reasonably  
10 assure the safety of any other person and the community shall be supported by clear and  
11 convincing evidence." 18 U.S.C. § 3142(f)(2).  
12

13 Notably, 18 U.S.C. § 3142(e)(2) states:

14 (2) In a case described in subsection (f)(1) of this section, a rebuttable presumption arises  
15 that no condition arises that no condition or combination of conditions will reasonably  
16 assure the safety of any other person and the community if such judicial officer finds that  
17 —

18 (A) the person has been convicted of a Federal offense that is described in  
19 subsection (f)(1) of this section, or of a State or local offense that would have  
20 been an offense described in subsection (f)(1) of this section if a circumstance  
21 giving to Federal jurisdiction had existed;

22 (B) the offense described in subparagraph (A) was committed while the person  
23 was on release pending trial for a Federal, State, or local offense; and

24 (C) a period of not more than five years has elapsed since the date of conviction,  
25 or the release of the person from imprisonment, for the offense describe in  
26 Subsection (A), whichever is greater.

(3) Subject to rebuttal by the person, it shall be presumed that no conditions or  
combination of conditions will reasonably assure the appearance of the person as  
required and the safety of the community if the judicial officer finds that there is  
probable cause to believe that the person committed —

1 (A) an offense for which the maximum term of imprisonment of ten years or more  
2 is prescribed in the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 801 et seq.), the  
3 Controlled Substances Import and Export Act (21 U.S.C. 951 et seq.), or chapter  
4 705 of title 46.

5 Subsection (f) enumerates the cases in which the rebuttable presumption arises. That  
6 section states:

7 (f) Detention Hearing.—The judicial officer shall hold a hearing to determine  
8 whether any condition or combination of conditions set forth in subsection (c) of  
9 this section will reasonably assure the appearance of such person as required and  
10 the safety of any other person and the community—

11 (1) upon motion of the attorney for the Government, in a case that involves—

12 (A) a crime of violence, a violation of section 1591, or an offense listed  
13 in section 2332b(g)(5)(B) for which a maximum term of imprisonment of  
14 10 years or more is prescribed;

15 (B) an offense for which the maximum sentence is life imprisonment or  
16 death;

17 (C) an offense for which a maximum term of imprisonment of ten years  
18 or more is prescribed in the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 801 et  
19 seq.), the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act (21 U.S.C. 951 et  
20 seq.), or chapter 705 of title 46;

21 (D) any felony if such person has been convicted of two or more offenses  
22 described in subparagraphs (A) through (C) of this paragraph, or two or  
23 more State or local offenses that would have been offenses described in  
24 subparagraphs (A) through (C) of this paragraph if a circumstance giving  
25 rise to Federal jurisdiction had existed, or a combination of such offenses;  
26 or

(E) any felony that is not otherwise a crime of violence that involves a  
minor victim or that involves the possession or use of a firearm or  
destructive device (as those terms are defined in section 921), or any other  
dangerous weapon, or involves a failure to register under section 2250 of  
title 18, United States Code...

18 U.S.C. § 3142(f) “Although the presumption shifts a burden of production to the defendant,  
the burden of persuasion remains with the government.” *United States v. Hir*, 517 F.3d 1081,  
1086 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2008).

1 The factors to be considered by the Court include “(1) the nature and circumstances of  
2 the offense charged, including whether the offense is a crime of violence, a violation of section  
3 1591; a Federal crime of terrorism, or involves a minor victim or a controlled substance, firearm,  
4 explosive, or destructive device; (2) the weight of the evidence against the person; 3) the history  
5 and characteristics of the person, including – (A) the person’s character, physical and mental  
6 condition, family ties, employment, financial resources, length of residence in the community,  
7 community ties, past conduct, history relating to drug or alcohol abuse, criminal history, and  
8 record concerning appearance at court proceedings; and (B) whether, at the time of the current  
9 offense or arrest, the person was on probation, or parole, or other release pending trial,  
10 sentencing, appeal, or completion of sentence for an offense under Federal, State, or local law;  
11 and (4) the nature and seriousness of the danger to any person or the community that would be  
12 posed by the person’s release. In considering the conditions of release described in subsection  
13 (c)(1)(B)(xi) or (c)(1)(B)(xii) of this section, the judicial officer may upon his motion, or shall  
14 upon the motion of the Government, conduct an inquiry into the source of the property to be  
15 designated for potential forfeiture or offered as collateral to secure a bond, and shall decline to  
16 accept the designation, or the use of collateral, of property, that, because of its source, will not  
17 reasonably assure the appearance of the person as required.” 18 U.S.C. § 3142(g) (emphasis  
18 added).  
19  
20

21 **I. Penalties for Methamphetamine – Mandatory Minimum**

22 Defendant SANTOS has been charged in Counts 1 and 2 with Attempted Possession with  
23 Intent to Distribute in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) and (b)(1)(A)(viii) and Possession with  
24 Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) and (b)(1)(A)(viii).

25 The penalty for manufacturing, distributing, dispensing, or possessing with intent to  
26

1 manufacture, distribute or dispense more than fifty (50) grams of methamphetamine or 500  
2 grams or more of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of methamphetamine,  
3 its salts, isomers, or salts of its isomers is a term of imprisonment which may not be less than 10  
4 years or more than life imprisonment and a \$10,000,000 fine. Notably, this mandatory  
5 minimum of ten (10) years to life applies to first offenders.

## 6 **II. Factors To Be Considered**

7  
8 18 USC § 3142(g) sets forth the factors to be considered in determining whether there are  
9 conditions of release that will reasonably assure the appearance of the person as required and the  
10 safety of any other person and the community. “The judicial officer shall, in determining  
11 whether there are conditions of release that will reasonably assure the appearance of the person  
12 as required and the safety of any other person and the community, take into account the available  
13 information concerning – .”

### 14 **1) nature & circumstances of the offense charge, including whether offense is a** 15 **crime of violence, a violation of section 1591, a Federal crime of terrorism, or** 16 **involves a minor victim or a controlled substance, firearm, explosive or** **destructive device.**

17 This case involves the defendant’s participation in the distribution of methamphetamine  
18 on Guam. Defendant willfully participated in an unlawful plan to receive and distribute a  
19 significant amount of methamphetamine on Guam.

### 20 **2) Weight of evidence against the person**

21 The weight of the evidence against Defendant SANTOS is strong. The Drug  
22 Enforcement Administration and U.S. Postal Inspection Services investigated the case and  
23 observed the receipt of the package and discovered the cache of methamphetamine hidden in  
24 Defendant SANTOS’ bedroom. Extractions of Defendant SANTOS’ phone corroborate the  
25 distribution of methamphetamine.  
26

1                   **3) history and characteristics of person including -**

2                   **a. Person's Character**

3                   Little is known by the Government regarding the Defendant's character.

4                   **b. Physical and Mental Condition**

5                   Defendant SANTOS is believed to be in good health.

6                   **c. Family Ties**

7                   Defendant SANTOS is believed to have ties to Guam.

8                   **d. Employment**

9                   Defendant SANTOS has NO record of employment for the past five years.

10                  **e. Financial Resources**

11                  It is unknown if Defendant SANTOS has financial resources.

12                  **f. Length of Residence in the Community**

13                  Defendant SANTOS is a lifelong Guam resident.

14                  **g. Community Ties**

15                  Defendant SANTOS is believed to be single.

16                  **h. Past Conduct**

17                  Defendant SANTOS is believed to have past and recent involvement with  
18  
19 methamphetamine use.

20                  **i. History Relating to Drug or Alcohol Abuse**

21                  Defendant SANTOS is believed to be involved in the use of and distribution of  
22 controlled substances.

23                  **j. Criminal History and Record Concerning Appearance at Court  
24 Proceedings**

25                  Defendant SANTOS has no felony criminal history, however, a pending Warrant  
26

1 of arrest for misdemeanor offenses in the North Las Vegas Municipal Court, Nevada is still  
2 outstanding.

3 **k. Record Concerning Appearance at Court Proceedings**

4 Unknown.

5 **l. Whether at Time of Current Offense or Arrest, the Person was on**  
6 **Probation, Parole, or on Other Release Pending Trial, Sentencing, Appeal or**  
7 **Completion of Sentence for an Offense Under Federal, State or Local law**

8 Defendant SANTOS was not under probation, parole or release.

9 **4) the nature and seriousness of the danger to any person or the community that**  
10 **would be posed by the persons released.**

11 Defendant SANTOS poses a very serious danger to any person as well as to the  
12 community at large. Defendant is involved in the attempted receipt, and possession and  
13 distribution of methamphetamine hydrochloride. Significant concerns exist that Defendant  
14 SANTOS will attempt to obstruct justice, or threaten, injure, or intimidate prospective witnesses  
15 or jurors.  
16

17 **III . Proffered Properties**

18 In the event that Defendant SANTOS attempts to post property or monies agreeing to  
19 forfeit said money or properties upon failing to appear, the Government requests that the Court  
20 decline to accept said money or properties as collateral to secure a bond. The Government  
21 intends to seek the forfeiture of a money judgment from the defendant for property having an  
22 illegal source. 18 U.S.C. § 3142(g)(4). Further, a Notice of Forfeiture pursuant to 21 U.S.C. §  
23 853 is contained in the Defendant's indictment, listing Defendant SANTOS' properties,  
24 constituting or derived from, any proceeds obtained, directly or indirectly, as the result of such  
25 offense and any property used, and intended to be used, in any manner or part, to commit, and to  
26



1 facilitate the commission of, the offense.

## 2 CONCLUSION

3 Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3142(e), the Government is entitled to a rebuttable presumption  
4 that no condition, or combination of conditions, exist that would reasonably assure Defendant's  
5 appearance at future proceedings if released on bond. Defendant faces very serious charges and  
6 the possibility of a lengthy period of imprisonment. The weight of the evidence in this case is  
7 strong. Based upon these factors, the District Court should conclude that evidence in the record  
8 clearly establishes the risk of flight by a clear preponderance of the evidence. There is no  
9 condition, or combination of conditions, that would reasonably assure Defendant's appearance at  
10 future proceedings if released on bond. *See United States v. Motamedi*, 767 F.2d 1403, 1406–07  
11 (9th Cir. 1985). In the event of conviction, Defendant SANTOS is facing mandatory ten years  
12 imprisonment. Given the significant quantities of methamphetamine hydrochloride and the  
13 danger to the community, Defendant SANTOS' motion for release should have been denied.

15 Last, the United States urges the Court not to accept tainted bond as collateral. *United*  
16 *States v. Nebbia*, 357 F.2d 303 (2<sup>nd</sup> Cir. 1966). The United States respectfully requests that the  
17 District Court revoke the Magistrate's determination that the defendant be released.

18 DATED this 29th day of October, 2020.

19  
20 SHAWN N. ANDERSON  
United States Attorney  
Districts of Guam and NMI

21  
22 By: /s/ Rosetta L. San Nicolas  
23 ROSETTA L. SAN NICOLAS  
24 Assistant U.S. Attorney  
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